

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please cancel Claim 23 without prejudice.

1-21. (Previously cancelled without prejudice)

22. (Amended) A method for detecting cancer in a subject comprising:

identifying the association between a fibrinogen degradation product (FDP) and common oncogenic proteolytic processes in said subject; contacting a biological sample obtained from said subject with a monoclonal antibody that binds to a fibrinogen degradation product (FDP) epitope of the beta chain of fibrinogen having an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO 1; and determining the presence or absence of said FDP using an enzyme-linked immunoadsorbent assay, wherein fibrin, fibrinogen and fibrinogen fragments D and B are not detected.

23. (Cancelled) The method according to claim 22 wherein the step of determining the presence or absence of said FDP is performed using an enzyme-linked immunoadsorbent assay.

24. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 22 wherein said monoclonal antibody is generated using an immunogen prepared from a peptide having an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ.ID.No.2.

25. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 22 wherein said subject is a mammal.

26. (Amended) The method according to claim 25 wherein said [animal] mammal is a human.

27. (Amended) The method according to claim 22 wherein [in] said biological sample is selected from the group consisting of blood, serum, plasma, urine, cervical secretions, bronchial aspirates, sputum, saliva, feces, synovial fluid and cerebrospinal fluid.